

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/512,408

Examiner

Andrew Hwa S. Lee

Applicant(s)

MUSHIKA, YOSHIHIRO

Art Unit

2886

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/14/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Andrew Hwa S. Lee
Primary Examiner
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 2-4, 8-13, 16-18, 20, and 21, the prior art of record fails to show or suggest an optical detection system having all the elements as presently claimed wherein the photosensor selecting section cyclically switches the photosensitive areas to select by a time sequential technique, and wherein synchronously with this switching operation, the modulation control section provides a modulation pattern, which produces appropriate imaging ability in the photosensitive area selected, for the spatial light modulator.

With respect to claims 5-7, the prior art of record fails to show or suggest an optical detection system having all the elements as presently claimed wherein the incoming light entering the spatial light modulator includes light rays with multiple different wavelengths.

With respect to claim 14, the prior art of record fails to show or suggest an optical detection system having all the elements as presently claimed in combination with a position change detecting section for detecting a change of the position of the optical detection system, wherein in accordance with the output of the position change detecting section, the modulation control section generates a modulation pattern that compensates for a shift in focal point caused by the position change.

With respect to claim 15, the prior art of record fails to show or suggest an optical detection system having all the elements as presently claimed wherein each of the photosensitive areas in the photodetector has a plurality of pixels arranged at a pitch, and

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wherein the modulation control section provides a modulation pattern, which focuses the incoming light at multiple points that are shifted from each other by a distance corresponding to the pixel pitch of the photodetector, for the spatial light modulator.

With respect to claim 19, the prior art of record fails to show or suggest an optical detection system having all the elements as presently claimed wherein the spatial light modulator is a liquid crystal element.

With respect to claim 22, the prior art of record fails to show or suggest an optical detection system having all the elements as presently claimed wherein the spatial light modulator functions as an optical low pass filter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Hwa S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2419. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fr.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tarifur R. Chowdhury can be reached on 571-272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Andrew Hwa S. Lee
Primary Examiner
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